

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A filtering apparatus calculates a median of image data that includes nine pixel values arranged in a window of 3×3 . First, an input circuit receives as an input the image data, divides the data into groups each
5 having three pixels, and outputs. The pixel values of each group are sorted in accordance with magnitude order, by a plurality of sorters. After sorting, the maximum values among the pixel values of the groups are determined by a plurality of shifters and a plurality of maximum value determiners, and the determined pixel values are removed from the
10 corresponding groups. As a result, four largest pixel values are removed from the three groups. A last sorter extracts and outputs the maximum pixel value (median) from the remaining five pixel values.